(c) There is no set pattern for growth in revenue with respect to increase in the telephone connection. However, it has observed that the revenue per DEL (Direct Exchange Line) falls with the increase in the number of telephones in the network but the gross revenue from the network increase with increase in the number of telephone connections.

Slowdown in Software Exports

918. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a slow down in the growth of software exports resulting in excess supply of fresh infotech engineers in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the yearly supply of fresh infotech engineers from Government recognised colleges and the expected absorption of these engineers in the domestic industry as well as abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) No, Sir. During the year 2001-02 export of software was estimated at Rs. 36,500/- crore registering a growth of 29% over the year 2000-01 when the export was recorded to be Rs. 28350 crore. During the first half of 2002-03, a growth of 24.24% is estimated over the corresponding period last year.

(b) The supply of Infotech Engineers during 2000-2001 was around 12500 at Degree level and 7600 at Diploma level. The absorption of these Engineers have been estimated to be 78% of Degree holders and 53% of Diploma holders within two years of obtaining their Degree/Diploma out of which around 5% are employed abroad.

Collection of Money under USF

919. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the money collected during the years 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 on the basis of the Universal Service Fund (USF); and

(b) the purpose for which that money is being utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The universal Service Support Policy has taken with effect from 01.04.2002 and therefore the receipts have been classified towards Universal Service Fund only with effect from 01.04.2002.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Money Order Commission on Disbursal of old age pension

920. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the State Governments have to bear the burden of Money Order Commission amounting to crores of rupees on disbursal of National Old Age Pension under the Rural Development Ministry's National Social Assistance Programme;

(b) if so, whether the Kerala Government has requested the Postal Services Board to exempt the National Old Age Pension from payment of Money Order Commission as has been done in case of the defence service personnel who are exempted from paying Money Order Commission; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir. State Governments are paying required Money Order Commission due and admissible.

(b) and (c) The request of the Kerala Government for exemption from money order commission could not be accepted. Money order commission in respect of money orders sent by the defence personnel is reimbursed by the Ministry of Defence to Department of Posts.